

House Resolution No. 333

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives feel it is altogether fitting and proper to pause from time to time to recognize individuals and organizations that have contributed to the welfare of this great state and its citizens or distinguished themselves through significant personal achievement; and

Whereas, the members are proud and pleased to pause to recognize Bess Wilfong, of Kirkwood, Missouri, who is the proud recipient of the Crestwood-Sunset Hills Chamber of Commerce 2007 Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award; and

Whereas, a native St. Louisan, having grown up in the Normandy area, Bess Wilfong attended the University of Missouri-Columbia and received by B.A. in English and her master's in administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis; and

Whereas, Bess Wilfong and her husband became foster parents beginning in 1995, caring mainly for sibling groups, and they felt that this was a wonderful way to give back to the community; and

Whereas, Bess Wilfong attended several workshops, courses, and sessions on foster care and became a foster-parent trainer; and

Whereas, Bess Wilfong taught English at Sperreng Middle School in the Lindbergh School District when she noticed a need for alternative school for children who didn't fit the traditional mold, which led to her founding Angels' Arms, which focuses on keeping siblings together, in 2000 with its first home on Tesson Ferry Road in South County and which has since grown to include several homes in other nearby communities; and

Whereas, Bess Wilfong has been recognized and honored as a St. Louis community leader by several organizations including being granted a Lindbergh Leader Award in 2002; Woman of Achievement in 2004; Finalist, The Stevie Awards for Women Entrepreneurs in 2004; Chanel Woman of Influence in 2005; and a Finalist in the Energizer "Keep Going" national competition; and

Whereas, Bess Wilfong is the beloved wife of Larry and proud mother of two young sons:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join to extend our most sincere congratulations to Bess Wilfong on the illustrious occasion of her receiving the Crestwood-Sunset Hills Chamber of Commerce 2007 Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award, with our best wishes for every success in the future; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Bess Wilfong.

Offered by _____
Representative Jim Avery
District No. 95

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 333, adopted January 30, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker